



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 513

February Session, 2006

Substitute Senate Bill No. 637

Senate, April 13, 2006

The Committee on Appropriations reported through SEN. HARP of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (c) The State Board of Education shall review, annually, all
5 applications and grant charters [, provided for the period from July 1,
6 1997, to June 30, 1999, no more than twenty-four charters for charter
7 schools are granted and, on and after July 1, 1999, no] in accordance
8 with subsection (f) of this section. No state charter school [enrolls (1)]
9 shall enroll (1) (A) more than two hundred fifty students, [or (B) in the
10 case of a kindergarten to grade eight, inclusive, school, more than three
11 hundred students] or (B) if deemed appropriate by the State Board of
12 Education for an applicant with a demonstrated record for raising
13 academic achievement and if within available appropriations, up to
14 eighty-five students per grade, or (2) twenty-five per cent of the
15 enrollment of the school district in which the state charter school is to

16 be located, whichever is less. The State Board of Education shall give
 17 preference to applicants for charter schools that will serve students
 18 who reside in a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, as
 19 amended, or in a district in which seventy-five per cent or more of the
 20 enrolled students are members of racial or ethnic minorities and to
 21 applicants for state charter schools that will be located at a work-site or
 22 that are institutions of higher education. In determining whether to
 23 grant a charter, the State Board of Education shall consider the effect of
 24 the proposed charter school on the reduction of racial, ethnic and
 25 economic isolation in the region in which it is to be located, the
 26 regional distribution of charter schools in the state and the potential of
 27 over concentration of charter schools within a school district or in
 28 contiguous school districts.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-66bb(c)

ED *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	\$1.92 million	\$1.92 million

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Funds totaling \$1.9 million have been provided in the FY 07 budget as passed by the Appropriations Committee in order to increase slots in charter schools made allowable by the bill. This results in an additional 244 slots for charter schools. The total potential cost of the bill is dependent on the eventual expansion plans of the charter schools which would need to be approved by the State Board of Education. Charter schools are provided \$8,000 per student under current law.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 637****AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS.****SUMMARY:**

The law allows state charter schools to enroll up to 250 students, except a school with a grade range of kindergarten through eight can enroll up to 300 students. The bill sets a 250 student cap for all charter schools, no matter the grade range. It attempts to, but does not, permit the State Board of Education to allow a school to have up to 85 students per grade if it finds it is appropriate to do so (see COMMENT). Such a school must have a demonstrated record for raising academic achievement and the increase must be within available appropriations. The prohibition against a charter school enrolling more than 25% of the enrollment of the school district where the school is located remains unchanged.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMENT***Per-Grade Limit***

The bill technically prohibits charter schools from enrolling up to 85 students per grade because the beginning of the sentence starts “no charter school shall enroll.”

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/22/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 52 Nay 0 (03/31/2006)